Long-term Agricultural price policy

1483. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are contemplating a long-term agricultural price policy with a view to modify the cropping pattern;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are unmanageable surpluses of certain commodities while some other fall badly short of the requirement;

(d) if so, the names of such commodities during the lst two years; and

(e) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The long term agricultural price policy is under preparation.

(c) to (e) The production of agricultural commodities is generally subject to fluctuations from season to season due to vagaries of whether and other factors. Stocks with the public agencies of wheat as on 1-4-1985 were higher by 5·37 million tonnes and those of rice were lower by 0.82 million tonnes than the levels recommended by the Technical Group on Buffer Stocking Policy . As on 1-4-1986, the stocks were higher by 104 million tonnes and 3·51 million tonnes for rice and wheat respectively. Steps are being taken to increase consumption of wheat within the country, besides small quantities of exports.

As regards pulses, to augment domestic availability, imports are allowed under the Open General Licence. Similarly, in the case of oilseeds, canali sed imports of edible oils are effected to increase total availability. Besides, steps are taken to increase the production of commodities in short supply.

During the last wo seasons (1984-85 and 1985-86) while the production levels achieved of jute resulted in a year of relative shortfall followed by a year of excess supply, cotton achieved successive years of record production. Government have recently created a buffer stock of jute to mitigate the adverse effects of fluctuation in porduction. The modalities of a supply management scheme in respect of cotton are under consideration. Apart from this, besides measures to increase domestic off-take of the fibre in years of relative excess supply, encouragement is also given to its export. Conversely in poor crop years, appropriate imports are effected, if necessary.

Jhuggis in Delhi

1484. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" of 22nd April, 1986 regarding unchecked growth of jhuggis in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the number of jhuggi dewellers in Delhi at present; and

(c) what steps government are taking to solve the problem of slum dwellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although no recent survey has been carried out, it is estimated that there are about two lakh jhuggis in Delhi at present.

(c) The following steps are taken/being taken in this regard:—

(1) Old and established jhuggi dwellers, on their removal are pro-